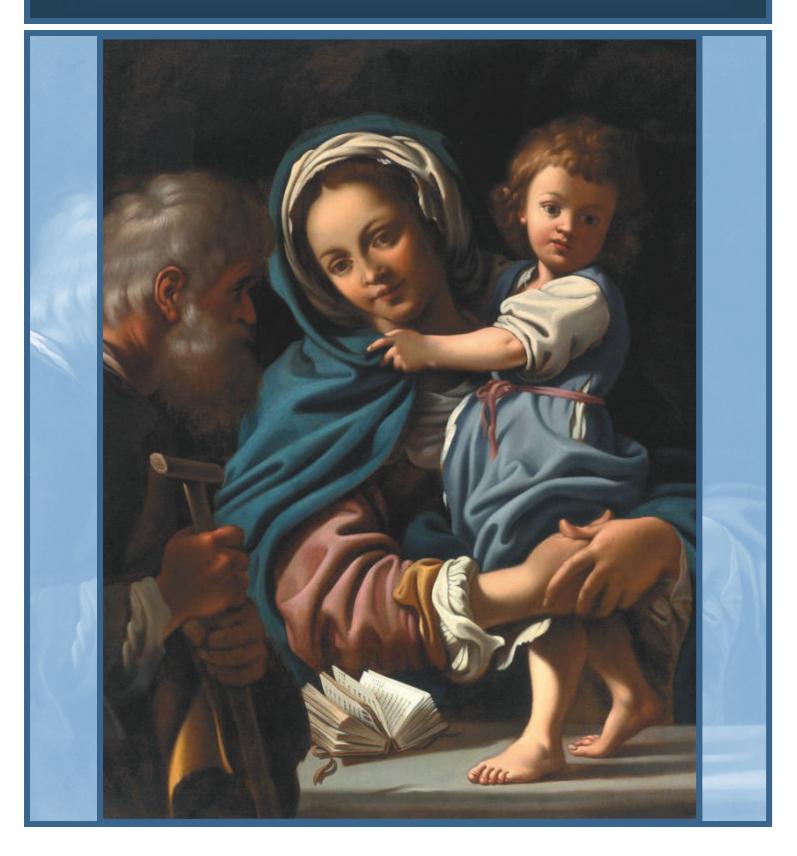
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Deacon Fred Smith, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Gene Sullivan, Permanent Deacon
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Rectory: 973-992-0994

Aquinas Academy: 973-992-1587 Early Childhood Ctr.: 973-992-5181 Youth Ministry: 973-992-1104 Catechetical Center: 973-992-4466 Music Ministry: 973-992-0994

Parish web site: www.stphilomena.org
To email the staff: Staff@stphilomena.org

To email the Music Ministry Office: Music@stphilomena.org



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SANCTUARY LAMP, ALTAR CANDLES, HOSTS & WINE

The Sanctuary Lamp this week will burn in memory of **Paul F. McDonough**,

gift of his Family.

The Altar Candles this week will burn in memory of

Rose and Joseph Klemens, gift of Regina and Joe Klemens.

The Hosts and Wine to be used at the Masses this week **Neil McNulty**,

gift of Kevin and Tricia Neary and Family.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, December 25th, Nativity of the Lord

7:30 AM People of the Parish 9:00 AM People of the Parish 10:30 AM People of the Parish 12:15 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, December 26th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 AM The Bolan Family 9:00 AM People of the Parish

10:30 AM Lester and Catherine Young

12:00 PM Jack Grob

MONDAY, December 27th, Saint John, apostle and evangelist

7:00 AM Jason Nedza 8:30 AM Noe Debuque 12:10 PM Ruth C. DeVitto

TUESDAY, December 28th, Holy Innocents, martyrs

7:00 AM Barbara Aragon 8:30 AM Nicanor Debuque

12:10 PM Hector Gesualdo (10th Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, December 29th, Saint Thomas Becket,

bishop and martyr

7:00 AM To honor Unborn Baby Boy Belviso

8:30 AM Dr. Jamie Portela 12:10 PM Louise Napolitano

THURSDAY, December 30th, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 AM Jane Margaret Cianci 8:30 AM Stella Cwiakala Marmo

12:10 PM Tina Noiar

FRIDAY, December 31st, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 AM Stella Marmo 8:30 AM Stella Cwiakala Marmo 12:10 PM People of the Parish 5:00 PM Henry Korte

SATURDAY, January 1st, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Ann Hovaniak 5:00 PM Leonore Z. Hornung

SUNDAY, January 2nd, The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 AM People of the Parish 9:00 AM Giovanni Cocca 10:30 AM Pietro Poto 12:00 PM Lucille Caruso

Spiritual Book Club

Meets every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 am in the convent. Come join us!

From the Pastor's Desk...

It is Christmas! I am writing this on Tuesday, December 14 because the deadline for the bulletin company is the 15th! That is very early for sure, but I know it is Christmas, a day so holy and special that the Church celebrates it for an "octave," or eight days. During these eight days we will celebrate additional feasts such as the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sunday, December 26); Saint John the Apostle, (Monday, December 27); the Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Tuesday, December 28); the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Saturday, January 1); the Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday, January 2). Sadly, this year the Solemnity of Mary is not considered a Holy Day of Obligation. But it should be, so we can start the year at the altar! It is optional but I know that many will come!

This is the Catholic Faith, so rich in content, so Biblical in its worship, so relevant to the modern world!

The Octave ends in eight days but the Season of Christmas extends through Sunday, January 9, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Other notable feast days during the Christmas Season are the Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Tuesday, January 4); and the Memorial of Saint John Neumann, missionary Bishop of Philadelphia (Wednesday, January 5). "Ordinary Time" resumes on Monday, January 10. I hope that Christmas has reached deeply into all of us. The fruit of Christmas includes the desire to live the truly Christian life, with the sacraments as our true light! The Eucharist, the Lord Jesus himself, is our food for the journey of life. To those who refuse this relationship, I can only bow my head in sadness. But many receive the invitation and live life so well! May your Christmas continue to be merry and holy as you observe it for another week!



Christmas at Saint Philomena is a very special experience. The faith of the people, the beauty of the Church, the sanctity of what we are doing... to quote the apostle Simon Peter at the Transfiguration, "how good it is for us to be here!" (Luke 9:33)

Review There were many great moments in Advent, many truly beautiful Christmas experiences. I think of *Simbang Gabi* on December 18, the beautiful Filipino celebration. I think also of the Christmas Concert in our Church on December 12. Here is a photo of Chris Pinnella, who performed with his quartet, with Catholic Charities CEO John Westervelt, and me.



As many of you know who have seen him perform here three times now, Chris can sing! The Concert is on our parish website and you can see it for free: www.stphilomena.org.

Our Aquinas Academy students also performed a Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 16. They are our greatest treasure! Our children love Aquinas and we love them.

It is New Year! Each of us is now heading into a new year, the Year of our Lord 2022. The past two years have been challenging to say the least. Since March of 2020 the entire world has been very much affected and changed. Humans are quite durable, yes, but we also feel the stresses of life, work, relationships, etc.

This week between Christmas and New Year's Day should feel special for us all. We celebrate Christ among us, and the passage to the new year might give us hope that 2022 will be better, safer, more healing for America and the world than we experienced in 2020 and 2021. The carton on the next page is pretty funny and has an element of truth in it:

(Continued on the next page.)



If you too feel exhausted and cranky, be kind to yourself this week. Fold up 2021 with some "thank-you prayers", and open 2022 with some "please prayers." Every day as I receive the Holy Eucharist I try to lift up our parish to the Lord... those who need extra grace, those who are sick or who struggle with faith, our children and our elders.

God bless our parish and everyone in it! In the holiness and joy of Christmas and the hopeful expectation of the new year, I wish you peace that the world alone cannot give. Please continue to pray for your parish and your priests. I am so proud of Saint Philomena Parish and I thank you from the heart!

~ Msgr. Fuhrman

SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD EACH WEEK



Eucharistic Adoration takes place each Monday immediately following the 12:10 pm Mass and concludes at 6:30 pm with the Novena to St. Jude, and Benediction.

The Sacrament of Penance Saturdays at 11:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive your Body and Blood. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. Stay close to me, Jesus, so that I may be close to all our sisters and brothers, especially those who are most in need of your loving care. Amen.



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and javon before God and man.

L.R. (2.5) - 32 from the continuous of National Inc. (2.000)

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a,

2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/

Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/

Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/

Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/

Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/

Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Divine Mercy Candle will burn in memory of **Neil McNulty**, gift of the Soley Family.

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn in memory of **Judith A. Laferrera** gift of the Family.

The Saint Philomena Candle will burn in honor of **Dr. Jack Audett, "Welcome Back",** gift of MaryAnn and Joe Murphy.

If you would like a Candle to burn in memory of a living or deceased beloved one, please stop by the rectory and make your request. (Cost \$15)

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY AROUND THE GLOBE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM OUR PARISH:

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANIEL DEVLIN **E.O.D. SPECIALIST COOPER FORDYCE, U.S. ARMY** SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOHN D. KRAMER CAPTAIN DANIEL R. WILD, U.S. MARINE CORP **CAPTAIN BEN WILD, U.S. AIR FORCE** MAJOR TREVOR WILD, U.S. ARMY JOEY MC GRATH, U.S. MARINE CORPS. MAJOR MATTHEW BOYLE **PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CURTIS KREBS CAPTAIN ROBERT KYLE CHENG** PRIVATE BRANDON ALSTON, U.S. ARMY PRIVATE PAUL ALONSO, U.S. ARMY SERGEANT GIANMARCO DECASTRO CORPORAL JOHN S. KRAUSE, US MARINE CORPS CORPORAL NICHOLAS R. LARACCA, U.S. MARINE CORPS. CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORGAN, SPECIAL FORCES, U.S. ARMY SERGEANT MICHAEL WISHNIA, U.S. MARINE CORPS. CORPORAL NICHOLAS DE GIULIO, U.S. MARINE CORPS. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MAX SAYRE, U.S. MARINE CORPS.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

Deceased Members of the Parish

FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE ILL

AT HOME OR IN THE HOSPITAL AND FOR THEIR CAREGIVERS:

Steve Abdo, Susan Allanson, Pat Ambio, Meghan Amorim, Patty Arnold, Eileen A. Azzinaro, Laurissa S. Azzinaro, John Bagasse, Linda Belardo, Christopher Browne, Kelly Burke, Patty Calabrese, Michelina Campanile, Anthony Caruso, Stacy Cavello, Dr. Alfred Christopher, Maria Cipolla, Vincent Cipolla, Jorge da Costa, Gary DaVila, Mike DeCastro, Deborah DeMarzo, John DeRosa, Laura Dowe, Lyra Dowe, Joey Foglio, Tina Galante, Ben Fressola, William Garrett, Joseph Genovino, Michelina Giuliano, Ismael Grizarry, Gino Ghirelli, John Groome, Kerry Groves, Anthony Iannone, Haley Jacob, Elizabeth Johnson, Glenn Kaplinsky, Susan Amy-Kelly, Jack Kruger, Stephanie Lopez, Ken Lordi, Cheryl Mactal, Peter Malloy, Eugene Marra, Henry Masias, Theresa McGurk, Pat Miller, Angie Martinez, Matty Molinaro, William O'Neill, Sr., Chris Parnau, Suzanne Rapa, Maria Rella, Philip Riccio, Sylvia and Ray Sanchez, Patricia Sarasohn, Kathy Sasse, Gabriella Scalera, David Smeraldo, Gabrielle Spano, Justin Tchao, Salvatore Tino, Jr., Frank Tumminia, Anthony Trapanese, Steve Tumminello, Nancy Valdivia, John Farro Vitale, Rosaria Viviani, Nicole Wallace, Jon Weinstein.



The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy Excerpts from the Diary of Saint Faustina

"On the cross, the fountain of My mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls—no one have I excluded!"

(Diary 1182)

Open Your Home to Our Lady

Welcoming a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima into your home is a very special way to show your love for Mary and to pray the Rosary with your family, especially your children.



A sign-up sheet to request the Statue is located in the vestibule of the Church. Mary would love to spend this time with you. You may pick-up the statue anytime after the 5 PM Mass on Saturday and return it by 5 PM the following Saturday. Mary is contained in a light blue duffle bag properly marked. It will be in the Library Room off the vestibule near the rest room. You are asked to sign-up only once every three months enabling the Lady of Fatima to be shared with others in the parish.



Reflections on Stewardship

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

(1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

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WWW.STPHILOMENA.ORG

Welcome to our parish!

Please call the Rectory, 9 am through 3 pm, Monday to Friday, and we will be glad to send you a census form to join the Parish. Please call also for a change of address or if you are leaving the Parish. That will help keep our records updated.

We invite you to celebrate . . .

The Eucharist

Saturday: 8:30 AM, & 5:00 PM (Anticipated Sunday Mass)
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 12:00 NN
Weekdays: 7:00 AM and 12:10 PM (Monday to Friday)

8:30 AM (Monday to Saturday)

Eucharistic Adoration:

Every Monday 12:40 to 6:30 PM

Novena to St. Jude and Benediction 6:30 PM

Reconciliation:

Saturday – 11:30 AM, 4:30 PM or anytime upon request.

Ministry to the Sick:

For those of advanced age and those seriously ill or hospitalized, contact the Rectory. Holy Communion will be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound.

Marriage:

Contact the Rectory at least one year before your wedding for ample preparation. Marriage is for a lifetime, not just a day.

Word of Life

"Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, 'in every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat' (PC 3). His 'yes' to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us."

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Live Streamed Masses

Sunday, January 2nd, the Epiphany of the Lord, the 9:00 AM Mass will be Live Streamed.

The 8:30 AM daily Mass will be Live Streamed Monday through Saturday.

Masses are live streamed via youtube! (and will be shared onto Facebook), search for "The Church of St. Philomena, Livingston, NJ". Mass will also be posted on our website: www.stphilomena.org.

For those not on Facebook, we now have our official youtube channel.

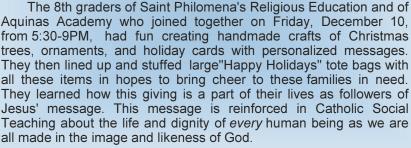
https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC0K7GPk2yoUkOwG3fcigqOQ

Saint Philomena's Religious Education Students and their Families sent 72 gift bags filled with food to Saint Michael's Food Pantry in Newark.



This Family Christmas Giving project offered the families in our Religious Education Program an opportunity to donate everything from cans of hams, chicken breast, tuna, chili, and beef stew, along with such staples as peanut butter, mac and cheese, soups, vegetables, cake mixes, fruits, cereals, pasta and sauces. Families also donated soap, shampoo, gloves, socks and Christmas candies. This supplemented the Giving Tree Project which helped people in need have the dignity to shop for their own gifts for their families, by ensuring they will have food to celebrate Christmas as well.







Saint Michael's Church in Newark is in a difficult area and has many people who wait in line to receive some food from their food pantry which aids families who cannot afford buying sufficient food after paying their rent, utilities, and other bills.







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